

Heritage News

Heritage News is the newsletter of the YPSILANTI HERITAGE FOUNDATION. It is published five times a year: September, November, January, March and May; and distributed, free of charge, to the membership by mail, and made available to the public at City Hall, Farmers' Market, and various business locations in the three business districts in the City.

January 1991

Ypsilanti, MI

MEETING: Tuesday, January 29, 1991
7:30

LOCATION: The First United Methodist Church
The Meeting Room
209 Washtenaw Avenue, Ypsilanti

PROGRAM: CANDIDATE NIGHT

With war just breaking out as we go to press and everyone's mind focused on the Middle East (as it should be), it is easy to forget about the news here at home; and the most important news for Ypsilantians is the upcoming primary elections in February. While the Ypsilanti Heritage Foundation takes no stand in the arena of politics, it recognizes the need to keep abreast of the issues that concern us locally.

To facilitate this, the Foundation has invited all candidates to participate in a FORUM, the only rules of which are that each candidate limit his or her comments to six minutes. It is expected that the candidate will present what he or she sees as the critical issues facing the city and, where possible, his or her thoughts about possible solutions.

A question and answer period will be held AFTER all candidates have had a chance to speak. IN ALL, AN INFORMATIVE, BUT RELATIVELY SHORT EVENING IS PLANNED.

REFRESHMENTS WILL BE SERVED.

A NOTE ON YPSILANTI HISTORY FROM A DEAR FRIEND IN GRAND HAVEN:

"Thank you for the invitation to the Annual Christmas Party. I regret that I will not be able to attend. Though I've been gone from Ypsilanti since 1937, I am still interested in the buildings and the changes made over the last few years as I read about them in the Heritage News.

"All of my school years were spent there, from Kindergarten through college, and in my occasional visits I see many many changes. Welch Hall was where I attended grade school, then later my English classes. I miss the fountain where adventursome fellows cooled off at night when summer school was too warm.

"One home I wish had been renovated and kept intact (it has been gone a long time) was what we referred to as the Owens home, located just east of Roosevelt school. It always seemed so mysterious--intriguing."

"God bless you and have a happy party on the 14th!

Sincerely, Martha (Galley) Anderson"

Dear Martha Anderson:

The party was a great success!--a table laden with Christmas delights and a house full of guests, including our City Historian, Doris Milliman, and other Museum supporters. It was held in the old farmhouse on Pleasant Drive, located west off S. Summit, and just south of Recreation Park.



LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

THE YPSILANTI HERITAGE FOUNDATION CALENDAR, 1991, AS VIEWED FROM ABROAD:

The following note is taken from a letter from England, written after the receipt of the gift of the 1991 YHF calendar, entitled "DOORS of YPSILANTI":

"I was delighted with the calendar--just the type I favour and one which no-one had given me this year. Also, it's such an individual thing, altogether a delightful idea. The doorways interest me as being so un-English. -- I don't mean that rudely but they have that individual something which I suppose one has to call 'American.'

Reg Hill, Barty Cottage, Kent"

Jim Westfall, our old friend, writes that he has moved to a retirement center, similar to the Gilbert Residence. He likes it very much. His new address:

James T. Westfall
4918 N. Habana Ave. #118
Tampa, FL. 33614

THANKS FOR 1990 YHF HISTORIC PRESERVATION SCHOLARSHIP:

"I would like to thank the Ypsilanti Heritage Foundation for the Preservation Scholarship of \$500 that was awarded to me this summer.

"Your scholarship provided me with the opportunity to work with the Ypsilanti Historic District Commission. I found my internship with the Commission to be both educational and interesting. I enjoyed working with the Commission and the City of Ypsilanti Community and Economic Development Office very much. As a student in the historic preservation program at Eastern Michigan University, I would like to thank the Ypsilanti Heritage Foundation for your support.

Thank you.

Sincerely, Cynthia Wyse"

Heritage News

Heritage News is the newsletter of the YPSILANTI HERITAGE FOUNDATION. It is published five times a year: September, November, January, March and May; and distributed, free of charge, to the membership by mail, and made available to the public at City Hall, Farmers' Market, and various business locations in the three business districts in the City.

MARCH 1991

Ypsilanti, MI

MEETING: Tuesday, March 26, 1991 - 7:30 p.m.

**LOCATION: The Meeting Room, First Methodist Church
209 Washtenaw Avenue, Ypsilanti**

PROGRAM: PLANNING A GARDEN: a method to your madness

SPEAKER: LINDA LEMKE, RLA, ASLA, garden design specialist

Spring madness? Your editor has just got back from Charleston, S.C., and Washington, D.C. In the first he was too sick (with bronchitis carried from home) to seek out a nursery, though he found out where a good one is; in the second, he drove his partner crazy calling nurseries to find plants to bring back to Michigan. He found deep purple pansies in bloom and primroses, both of which you may soon see in his window boxes.

Anybody else a bit crazed at this time of year? The disease is prevalent (especially as the prevalent bronchitis subsides). That's why the Foundation thought it a good idea to focus at our next public meeting on the subject of GARDENING.

As you know, the Foundation is a very lucky organization - and we've discovered a real garden planner in the area who has promised to come and talk with us on the subject of How To Plan an Old Fashioned Garden. LINDA LEMKE has already designed an old fashioned garden on Oak Street, for Roseanne Burke; and everyone who has seen it is pleased. Now she will 'go public' with her skills and the Foundation invites everyone interested in the subject of gardening, especially old fashioned gardening, to come.

BRING A FRIEND: this is a GET TO KNOW YOUR GARDENING NEIGHBOR NIGHT!

Bring your latest favorite books on gardening to show us (though we won't be responsible for lost items!) Bring, also, any old gardening magazines you want to give away or share! Look at it this way, if you will: **THIS CAN BE A REAL GROUP THERAPY SESSION; AND, EVEN IF YOU HAVE ONLY A MODICUM OF THE DISEASE (THOUGH NO CURE IS PROMISED), YOU CAN BE HELPED!**

REFRESHMENTS WILL BE SERVED!

E.M.U.'s One Room School House Begins New Phase

The One Room School House Restoration Committee, chaired by Dean Rockwell, is nearing its final hours. A new committee is being formed, entitled, The Friends of the One Room School House. Chairman Rockwell's last report reads as follows:

"Now I wish to report on some promising happenings. Jack Slater happily reported last week that our goal of raising \$181,000 needed for our whole project has been attained. My thanks to the over 220 people and organizations who have contributed money in the past five years, to those past and present at Eastern Michigan University who have supported and fostered our project both with money and manpower, and to Jack Slater and his office without whose help we wouldn't have made it.

On Thursday, February 21, Jack Harris brought his Restoration Committee together with Dan Klenczar of the Physical Plant. (In attendance were Lois Porter, Nathalie Edmunds, Kay Sekerak, Dean Rockwell, Scott Diels, Carroll Osborn, Fran Nelson, and Dan Klenczar.) It was a very productive meeting. The Master Plan for the interior refurbishing and restoration was reviewed in detail with the re-affirmation to honor it. Everything possible will be done to maintain the patina and integrity of the classroom.

Dan will request master plans from the architect immediately and on receipt of them will ask for bids on completion of the various items and areas. Now that we have the money he promised to give our project high priority and to pursue it vigorously. Jack Harris should have more to report at our March 30 meeting. See you then."

If you wish to join the Friends of the School House or contribute items to the interior furnishing, place call Jack at 485-2155.

A SNOW BATTLE



HERITAGE FOUNDATION HOME TOUR COMMITTEE REPORT:

Peg DuFresne, our new chair for the annual Home Tour held during Heritage Festival in August reports that the committee is already hard at work. At least one MAJOR home is already committed; others under consideration. If you know of a 'home tour quality' house and think the owners might be interested in opening their home to the public for one afternoon, Call Peg at 482-8666.

FOR SALE:

Charming old cottage on much sought after Maple Street, East Side, Historic District, with creatively decorated interior, deck overlooking garden, with flowers, vines, and trees. Five rooms and bath down; two and bath up. Board and batten attached shed or garden house. Garage. Exterior needs creative work and TLC. Beautiful neighborhood vistas, alleys, near excellent school. Fantastic price. Call the editor, Jack Harris, 485-2155.

LOOK FOR THESE IMPROVEMENTS:

■ Royd and Connie Riddell's red brick Italianate diagonally across from the Post Office (see it from there, in all its new splendor!). Repairs have been made to both house and wonderful barn or coach house; paint is on (with sparkling blue sash trim in progress), even the front door has lace curtains in the windows! Take another look at a very old Ypsilanti gem!

■ The garden improvements (not to mention the house inside and out) at 220 S. Huron: the Tara of Ypsilanti.

■ Joe Lawrence's monumental project at 210? S. Huron, the greatest Eastlake architecture for miles and miles, with the original facade back in sight and a new paint job, and now improvements in progress. Look! as you pass on Huron.

■ The window treatment and new paint on 221 S. Washington: an ancient structure with a fresh face. The new owners surely have imagination and style!



■ Pat Easto's buildings downtown, just east of the bicycle shop, and formerly Darby's—Shoes and Seifried's Jewelers. Pat is installing apartments upstairs (three units with fire wall separating them) and access from the parking lot behind. New facade treatment.

■ Ralph Ellis, too, at the Ypsi Cycle, is doing up the disaster (formerly Anne's Pub just to the east). That hideous facade is now receiving restoration. Ralph is forever to be congratulated for his commitment and hard work in bringing back that part of downtown.

■ The little old vernacular Greek Revival at 316(?) East Forest is finally taking shape, its ancient windows shining and new siding work and a start on the paint job, all of which is a boost to that end of poor old Forest (that has so much potential).

■ Watch, too, for the new six foot board fence that will shut out E.M.U.'s parking lot along residential Adams St. and surround the historic Harris house. Hopefully, work will also begin soon on the new bus transfer station on Pearl.

HERITAGE NEWS
510 Pearl Street
Ypsilanti, Michigan 48197

Heritage News

Heritage News is the newsletter of the YPSILANTI HERITAGE FOUNDATION. It is published five times a year: September, November, January, March and May; and distributed, free of charge, to the membership by mail, and made available to the public at City Hall, Farmers' Market, and various business locations in the three business districts in the City.

MAY 1991

Ypsilanti, MI

MEETING: Wednesday, May 15, 1991 - 6:30 p.m.

SPECIAL EVENT: 10th ANNUAL AWARDS BANQUET
17th ANNUAL HISTORIC STRUCTURE MARKER AWARDS PROGRAM

LOCATION: LADIES' LITERARY CLUB, 218 N. WASHINGTON

Spring again in Ypsilanti--as unpredictable as ever . . .

More predictable, however, is the PROGRESS OF PRESERVATION in Ypsilanti, a town that continues to treasure its past. Year by year, and little by little, the place improves its image as one of the best preserved towns in the state. This in the face of at least three decades of decay, desecration, and dereliction is an especially astonishing recognition.

And RECOGNITION, again, is just what we intend to CELEBRATE! The Heritage Foundation's Historic Structure Marker Committee has again spent the year combing the city for notable structures in terms of architectural styles that show continued excellence in maintenance and/or recent major quality renovation. Quality restoration and maintenance are essential if our community is to retain its claim to the title of HISTORIC YPSILANTI.

DON RANDAZZO, Chair of the Marker committee, and his troupe: Bill Nickels, Hank Prebys, and Rick Leyshock have come to the Board with a list of buildings for recognition and have received approval. This year there are five finalists, whose owners will be the HONORED GUESTS at our tenth annual banquet.

DON'T MISS THIS HISTORIC OCCASION, held in one of YPSILANTI'S MOST HISTORIC STRUCTURES. Guests will gather in the long dining room for punch at 6:30; at 7:00 they will fill their plates from the marvelous array of POT LUCK dishes again co-coordinated by KAREN NICKELS, our banquet chair, and her co-worker, Penny Schreiber. No speaker, only a short awards program will follow the banquet.

IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO ATTEND, MEMBER OR NOT, AND YOU HAVEN'T YET BEEN CALLED, simply call Karen at 483-8896, and suggest what kind of dish you might contribute. Marker recipients are, of course, not expected to bring a dish, since they are our honored guests. Table space is limited, so you must call ahead
for RESERVATION.

BOARD MEMBER RECEIVES AWARD

Denis Schmiedeke, for the third consecutive year, has won an award in the annual national 35mm Architectural Slide Photography Competition, conducted by the St. Louis Chapter of the American Institute of Architects. This year's honor, as last year, was accorded a "Merit Award" and was for his slide entitled: "Keeper's Cottage at Falkland Palace" which was shot late last spring in the Fife Region of Scotland. It was selected from more than 2800 entries, some 300 greater than last year. The subject matter of the competition had to be an architectural theme or contain some element of the human-built environment. The emphasis of the competition, however, was the photographic interpretation of the subject matter, not the architecture.

His two previous awards were for photos taken in historic Shaker-town, near Pleasant Hill, Kentucky. A print of this year's award winning slide will be displayed at the AIA Convention in Washington, DC, in late May and published two years hence in "Architecture 1993," the official appointment desk calendar of the AIA.

In addition to his architectural practice activities, Denis is:

- a member of the Board of Directors of the Heritage Foundation;
- editor and photographer for the KIOSK, the newsletter of the Saarinen (Michigan) Chapter of the Society of Architectural Historians, a publication he founded while serving a three year stint as the SAH chapter president from 1985 to 1988; and
- a commissioner and resident architect on the Washtenaw County (Michigan) Historic District Commission.

In his capacity on the county HDC, he has structured a project to create a "Guide to Washtenaw County Historic Places," in the form of a large, two sided sheet of text, maps and photographs relating to the history of Washtenaw County. This project is a considerable elaboration of a similar copyrighted project he created and produced five years ago for the Heritage Foundation, entitled "GUIDE to YPSILANTI Historic Architecture" which incorporated his photography, graphics, text, to expand public awareness of the heritage of the community.

#

FOUNDATION SCHOLARSHIP AWARDED

The Heritage Foundation has again awarded a \$500 scholarship to an EMU student. ERIC SU, from Taiwan and now an historic preservation major at E.M.U., will serve as staff intern to the historic District Commission this summer. Eric already has a master's degree in architecture from the U. of M. He was recommended to the Foundation by Dr. Marshall McLennan, Professor of Geography and Geology at E.M.U. The Foundation board accepted his recommendation unanimously. Congratulations, Eric!

TIMELY YPSILANTI RECIPE FROM ANOTHER TIME

Now is the time to head down to the Ypsilanti Farm Market in the Freight House, Depot Town (Wednesday or Saturday morning) for a nice, oh-so-fresh bunch of Michigan rhubarb from Malcolm Reinhardt's Reliable Market (you know, the Permanent Fixture at our market).

Here's what you do with the fresh bunch of RHUBARB:

You take the following recipe from Larry and Priscilla Massie's book, Walnut Pickles and Watermelon Cake: A Century of Michigan Cooking, a collection of Michigan recipes (Wayne State University Press, \$29.95) and DO IT!

RHUBARB CREAM PIE (YPSILANTI, 1886)

2 cups rhubarb (2 to 2½ stalks), washed, ends removed, finely cut (You can then use the green tops as a bouquet)
1½ cups sugar, divided; 2 tablespoons water
2 eggs, separated; 2 tablespoons flour; pinch of salt
1 cup of milk; ¼ teaspoon cream of tartar, optional
1 9-inch pie pastry, baked and cooled (a Pet-Ritz 9" Deep Dish crust was used in our kitchen test).

Preheat oven to 350. In a medium sauce pot place rhubarb, ½ cup sugar and water. Bring to a boil. Reduce heat. Simmer 5 minutes, stirring as necessary. In small mixing bowl whisk together egg yolks, flour, ½ cup sugar, salt, and milk until lump free. Add creamed mixture to rhubarb over medium heat, stirring until thickened, about 5 minutes. Pour into cooled pie crust, set aside. In a clean small mixing bowl beat egg whites until foamy. Add cream of tartar if desired, beat for 20 seconds then gradually add remaining ¼ cup sugar, 1 teaspoon at a time and continue beating after each addition. Continue beating until stiff peaks are formed. Place meringue on top of hot rhubarb filling. Using the back of a spoon, spread meringue to seal pastry completely and swirl meringue to form peaks. Place in oven for 3-6 minutes, watching carefully, until peaks are golden brown. Serves 8.

(Tested by Jack Harris in the kitchen at 510 Pearl Street and served to the Board of Directors of the Ypsilanti Heritage Foundation, March 13, 1991, all of whom were in fits of ecstasy. "Ypsilanti!" they all agreed: "What a great place it must have been in the 1880's - too!")



AWARD RECIPIENTS

ROYD AND CONNIE RIDDELL, for their residence at
218 Ferris
Style: Queen Anne

TIM VACHON, for his residence at
506 N. Adams
Style: Carpenter Gothic

HUGH and DORY KENNEDY, for their residence at
316 N. Grove
Style: Queen Anne

JACK TRAVIS, for his house at
310 N. Adams
Style: Queen Anne and Richardsonian Romanesque

RICHARD REED, for his house at
207 N. Hamilton
Style: Queen Anne

SOUTH SIDE NEIGHBORHOOD WISHES TO THANK CITY

The SSNA wishes to thank City Council, and especially their council members, Lois Wells and Danny Hoffman, for supporting their plea for stop signs at two junctions in their neighborhood: 1.) at South Washington and Woodward and 2.) South Adams and Woodward. The many, many children in the neighborhood prompted the call for the new signs.

YPSILANTI HERITAGE FOUNDATION
510 Pearl Street
Heritage News
Jack Harris, Editor(485-2155)
Lisa Walters, Assistant Editor(485-3683)

Heritage News

Heritage News is the newsletter of the YPSILANTI HERITAGE FOUNDATION. It is published five times a year: September, November, January, March and May; and distributed, free of charge, to the membership by mail, and made available to the public at City Hall, Farmers' Market, and various business locations in the three business districts in the City.

AUGUST 1991 ** GOOD NEWS EDITION!! ** Ypsilanti, MI

THE YPSILANTI HERITAGE FESTIVAL August 16, 17, 18

SPECIAL EVENT: 14TH ANNUAL YPSILANTI HERITAGE FOUNDATION HOME TOUR

DATE: Sunday, August 18, Noon to 5:00 p.m.

TICKETS: Adults \$6.00 - Senior \$5.00 - Children \$4.00

Available at ticket booths in the Festival area:

- 1. At the entryway into Riverside Park**
- 2. In front of the Historic Museum on Huron Street**

HOUSES ON TOUR

917 Pearl	Arthur and Terry McVicar
209 Washtenaw	First United Methodist Church
221 South Washington	Kathy and Jonathan Langberg
192 Oak	Paul Sieron
313 East Cross	Jonnie Bryant and Mark Namatush
301 North Grove	Joe Mattimoe and Hank Prebys
227 N. Grove	Gilbert Mansion (Gary Clark's apt.)

SEE HISTORIC PRESERVATION IN PROGRESS

VISIT SOME OF YPSILANTI'S FASCINATING HISTORIC STRUCTURES!



IT HAPPENED IN YPSILANTI IN 1990-91


The Heritage Foundation presents its **ANNUAL GOOD NEWS ISSUE**, reporting on some of the improvements which have occurred in Ypsilanti over the past year, for our own delight and that of our Festival visitors. It also allows us an opportunity to say Thank You to at least SOME of those who have helped to make this a better place to live. This News issue is the Foundation's gift to all who care about Ypsilanti. We're delighted you came; we hope you'll come back to Ypsilanti.

NEW ACTIVITY DOWNTOWN

Probably the biggest change in downtown over the last twelve months is the opening of the new **Gary M. Owen School of Business** on the site of the old Cleary College of Business, and what a change it has made. Obliterating a couple of relatively ugly gas stations and a mixture of domestic structures, the new building and its accompanying parking structure take up the entire block from Michigan Avenue to Pearl, between Hamilton and Adams. It is now surrounded, in limited space, with a forest of plantings and lawn, which should add pleasure to the scene as the years go by and the trees and shrubs, some flowering, mature. More important is the new foot traffic, especially between the main campus and downtown: a whole lot of nice E.M.U. students. This is a welcome innovation. It must also be advantageous to some of the shops, especially restaurant, deli, and food vendors.

Ralph Ellis is again making his mark along Michigan Avenue, doing another renovation: the building adjacent, on the east, to his Ypsi Cycle at 116. He has already done an enormous amount of work in restoring the brickwork and has recreated the same type of lower cornice over the shop front as is on his Cycle building. There will be apartments upstairs (for Business School tenants?) and perhaps an expansion of the Cycle shop below.

The City has chosen the nationally known firm of Quinn-Evans to do a feasibility study of **City Hall**, that much altered historic monument at the corner of Huron and Michigan. The big question involves removal of the cheese grater cover that obliterates all the windows that lie just underneath. Workers in the building should welcome such a change, both for the advantage of simply looking out and also for the safety of easy egress in case of emergency!



As impressive, almost, as the Business School (and perhaps more generally appreciated) are all the plantings downtown. There is literally a plethora of flowers and shrubs and trees now, especially at the entryways. Most notable, perhaps, is the lushness at the western entry, in front of the Public Library, where petunias bloom again in the window boxes all around and the city plantings run rampant in bloom in front. And, to top that off, the fountain splashes in all directions, with a background of shrubs and trees in a space that not long ago was forlorn.

Up Huron, at the corner of Pearl, you have a good view of the changes that have occurred for the better, around the new McAuley Health Service. Instead of rutted, muddy parking, there are beautifully paved surfaces, surrounded by plantings and lighting, including a wonderfully tall street light against an historic building that McAuley agreed to save as a part of their facility, all blending to perfection to create an agreeable combination of new and old. This is perhaps our best, most visible expression of the cooperation between the business and commercial world and the Historic District Commission. Kudos to the seven members of that group who work so hard for the city, volunteering time and energy, as well as expertise.

Still at the junction of Pearl and Huron, notice the new awnings on the building adjacent to the old G.A.R. Hall at 110, also owned by Gare and Chris Maxton, adding a sense of finish to that restoration still in progress.

Up Pearl, of course, is the new Depot for the AATA in progress. The building, now under construction, will include a clock tower or cupola. Behind this is the new parking lot for Eastern's Business School, with landscaping and fences at the margins, an example to others with lots that stand rawly to the streets.

MANY THANKS to all those good folks at Full Circle for their great work tending the plantings downtown.

HISTORIC STRUCTURE MARKER AWARDS 1991

YOU MIGHT ENJOY DRIVING BY THESE PROPERTIES, JUST TO SEE THE CHOICES MADE THIS YEAR BY THE HERITAGE FOUNDATION IN AWARDING PROPERTY OWNERS FOR THEIR MAINTENANCE, RESTORATION, &/or RENOVATION OF HISTORIC PROPERTIES:

218 Ferris (Royd and Connie Riddell); **516 N. Adams** (Tim Vachon); **316 N. Grove** (Hugh and Dory Kennedy); **310 N. Adams** (Jack Travis); and **207 N. Hamilton** (Richard Reed).



SOUTH SIDE IMPROVEMENTS

Most notable, of course, is the transformation of the house diagonally across from the Post Office, on Ferris, owned by **Royd and Connie Riddell**. One of Ypsilanti's most historic town houses (built close to the sidewalk, like houses in older cities in the Eastern U.S.), the building has been restored to perfection by the Riddells. It has a barn or coach house, also red brick, and the place is pretty as a picture--and now on the market! Not that the Riddells are leaving: they're just looking around town for another property that they can go to work on, bless their hearts. Take it from them: they see a great future for Ypsilanti: as Ann Arbor becomes more and more a congested conglomeration of monoliths and traffic, Ypsilanti will become the more desirable residential community. Lena Horne sings it best: "You gotta BELIEVE in yourself!"

Down **Washington Street**, at 221, the new owners, **Kathy and Jonathan Langberg**, have made impressive strides in one year in upgrading that already gem-like antique. (You know the story: Kathy, having been shown houses all over the Ann Arbor area, saw a picture of this place and insisted on being taken to it. She got only as far as the front door and said, "I'll take it.") Now look for their improvements: a new brick front walk, new driveway in back, a garden, a hidden brick patio on the north side off an even more hidden screened porch, and a picket fence in charcoal to match the new house trim, with a perennial border OUTSIDE the fence for the especial delectation of passersby, and new landscaping all around the building: how's that for one year tenancy? (And to be on Home Tour besides!)

Directly across the street (220) you will also recognize improvements in that once derelict building: new paint, classic pots on the porch, planted, and Adirondack chairs in a row, suggesting old time good times chatting on the front porch!

Just down and across **Catherine** note the charming improvements at 111, where the owners have brightened up the front with a colorful display of old fashioned flowers.

And, of course, look again at 200 S. Huron, **Sandy Hoag's** residence, corner of Catherine, the Tara of Ypsilanti, where a change from white trim to a stone color has made an elegant difference. Not only that, but new plantings on all four sides make a very strong statement of commitment and good taste. The entire area just there, both up and down the street, is to be noticed for the improvements in painting and plantings.

Don't miss a good look around Joe Lawrence's miracle transformation of 210 S. Huron, the great house just north of his stone residence. This is Ypsilanti's best example of Eastlake architecture, with strong embellishments throughout. So much has been restored it's difficult to recall what the place looked like not so long ago, but it was covered with asbestos siding and most of its splendid elements destroyed or hidden. It now boasts a new color scheme, too, so take a look while you're out celebrating!

ALONG SOUTH HURON STREET, nearer downtown, you should notice the two houses, 109 and 103, both owned and under restoration by Louis Rome. 103, the former parsonage of the Congregational Church on North Adams, was moved here a few years ago and is in process of becoming a bed and breakfast, with additions, new wiring, sprinkler system throughout, and a bath in each room. 109, the other place, is now with five apartments, but may be converted. Note the paint colors: the trim and body colors reversed on the two buildings, with sash color the same.



A VISIT TO ART AND DESSIE HOWARD

While we're roaming about the South Side, your editor would like to share with you the pleasure he had recently visiting with Art and Dessie Howard on W. Ainsworth. Art, who is remembered by Foundation members for his superlative contributions to our former art calendar, will be 87 on September 29. We sat on their spacious, open veranda at the back--facing west, where we could enjoy all the variety of plantings that have grown up over the many years they have lived there. The fountain in the pool was bubbling and Art fed the multitude of goldfish for my entertainment (and obviously their delight). As we talked of old times (and new), we watched all the bird life, most of which I've complained lately of not seeing in my garden: robins, of course, bathing in a big dish kept full for just that, but also finches, and warblers, and--lo--a Baltimore oriole, something I have thought disappeared from our world. He headed back to the white birch where a pair probably have their pendant nest. All the famous roses are gone (too much work and the Howards, bless them, have given up poisons that seem essential to keeping roses) but there is wonderful life there: plants, fish, birds galore, and two delightful people who have made it all their own for so many years: two people who have been Great Contributors to the preservation of Ypsilanti, Museum supporters, nature conservators, and town historians- adorable people altogether. Art gave me a note on Geo. P. Becker, who wrote the "Field Song"(1912) for Michigan Normal College (M.N.C., now E.M.U.), and Dessie gave me a bag of chamomile tea for an upset stomach and a sprig of wormwood from her herb garden for decoration on my kitchen table. I'm going to treasure them all!

IMPROVEMENTS IN DEPOT TOWN AND ON THE EAST SIDE

It is probably too early to see the biggest little improvement in Depot Town, but you should be aware that the City has allotted money in support of the rebuilding of the ancient **Signal Tower** at the NW corner of Cross and River streets. That little charmer, known to most of us only in a sketch, with hollyhocks growing out of the foundation, will add a sharp punctuation mark to that junction. Apparently there will be several new signs in Depot Town as well to hail visitors. (D.T.A.: if you should be looking for a single hollyhock to replace original, see the editor of this News.)

Carolyn McKeever has made yet another improvement to her property (you know, the one west of the passageway into the Freight House Yard, where the entire wall was rebuilt?): this time it's a new stairway at the back. Do note.

While in the **Freight House Yard**, note all around the Freight House itself the extensive and colorful plantings of lilies and other flowers this year, an enormous improvement. Though we will probably never see (don't swear to it) the rebuilding of the great Victorian displays that graced the front grounds of the Depot itself in the early years (to the delight of all travelers along that much traveled line), the folk in Depot Town can all be proud of their efforts. They may like to play that they're a Rag-tag bunch down there, but that kind of 'finished' look, with gardens, et. al., doesn't happen by just sitting in the Coffee House and bars!

ALSO ON THE EAST SIDE:

Wonder of wonders, especially in a time of recession and a slump in the housing market: **two new houses** are being built on the East Side! The first, yet to begin ground breaking although approved by HDC and city, is at **53 E. Forest**, just east of Motor Wheel and across from the new little Golf shop, once a grocery. The other, at **204 Maple**, owned by Jeffrey Scherer, IS under construction and should be well along by Festival. Not bad news at all, considering the few spaces available for building within the Historic District as well as the nation-wide slump in the building trades.

Let's not forget to say **Thank You** to those who have maintained their property for so long that we tend to take their efforts for granted. A good example is the **Anschuetz'** residence at **101 E. Forest**, where a variety of plantings and outside living spaces seems to just 'happen' each summer. It's the kind of house and grounds (and on a key corner, too!) that visitors must remember as a part of Old Ypsilanti.

At **202 E. Forest** check out the new look: a white Federal style building with a colonial-type porch with spacious sidelights in the entry, with new landscaping and plantings and pots all across the front: a remarkable transformation.

Just up Forest, too, at 314 and 316, we believe you should notice these two antique little classics, both of which had been much neglected for so long but now repaired and painted, fresh as a daisy.

Around to 310 Maple, you'll see the dedication and good taste of Brad and Pam Clark expressed in their new facade. The asbestos siding is off that formerly faceless structure and the original clapboards have been revealed. Even the elegant missing window hoods have been restored and great new paint colors applied. Go, look, see for yourself!

Back up on Prospect, note the refreshing fountain, an historic monument itself, uncovered in recent years and revitalized by an active community.

At the corner of Prospect and Cross be prepared to be dazzled by the Victorian masterpiece there, for so long painted in pea green, now painted in jewel-like colors chosen by the former owners and now applied by Becky Lewis, the new: pale grey surface, with pink and magenta trim and darker grey shingles above--and that doesn't do justice to the subtleties. What a statement it now makes, behind the low picket fence that so perfectly defines the premises.

At 315 N. Grove you'll find another fence, again picket but with very special pattern, brand new but looking as if it has been there for eons. Notice! - especially for shape and color, a deep wine to match the shutters, against the house in two shades of subtle warm grey, the home of preservationists Terry and Mary Ann McDonald.

At 325 Cross, again, note that Peter Cousin's front porch is finally back together again after much restoration, the bases of the pillars having been entirely rebuilt and everything painted in several warm, autumnal colors.

You might also wish to notice that new and enthusiastic owners have taken on the rehab of the much-neglected house at 310 E. Cross.

Down River Street, at 213 (the great brick mansion with the fan window center front), you'll see a transformation from white to a four-color paint scheme, though only a couple of the new colors are on at time of writing. (Hence, Festival would be a good time to STOP and look closely at this great house: the detail is most impressive.)

We should also say Thank You to the gentleman at 9 River who CONTINUES to maintain, year after year, his cottage garden in front and at the side of his proudly kept property.



OLD WEST SIDE IMPROVEMENTS

First and foremost, and more than an improvement, is the good news that one of the two west side buildings 'lost' to fire last year will be restored. The big house (184-190), pivotal, indeed, at the SE corner of N. Washington and Washtenaw, is now covered with plastic and will be rehabed this fall by Triangle Management. A demolition permit had been applied for, but the Historic District Commission requested a variance from the Planning Commission to allow for eight units rather than the four permissible in that area. This, along with the recognition that the two-by-fours still remaining in the structure are larger than presently available '2x4's, helped convince Triangle to tackle the massive job. Incidentally, Triangle is one of those large rental firms that are doing great things to improve their many holdings around town. They are setting a new standard for upkeep and maintenance. Thanks, and ever thanks!

At the northwest corner of Pearl and Summit you must notice the meticulous work going on in restoring the facade of that little Greek Revival treasure, obviously readying it for new paint. Practically all of the old flaky paint is coming off, with heat gun and scraper. Your editor stopped to say hello and found that the new owners, Byron and Caroline Williams, are dedicated to restoring as much as possible of the character of the house, inside and out. They are even collecting old windows from the rubbish other people throw away and having Congdon's Ace Hardware ("they think we're crazy, but they do it") cut old glass to replace broken panes. They also hope to reopen a window closed off at a stairwell. They have already done a "dig" in the back yard and uncovered a wonderful little pool from the 1920's, now lush with topical fish and flora. Here at the top of Pearl (the edge of town in the 1850's) this is a piece of Ypsilanti history that has been crying out for such attention for years and years! Thank you, new owners!

Around the corner, at 945 Sheridan, there's already a new paint job on a large old house receiving total revitalization. The raspberry with white trim colors alone have given new life to that street.

There are, too, new paint colors at 217 N. Washington and 220 N. Hamilton, as well as several other houses in the area.

THANKS TO JEAN McFADDEN OF PLEASANT DRIVE FOR HOSTING LAST YEAR'S FOUNDATION CHRISTMAS PARTY. Always an elegant pot luck, this was a particularly festive occasion, in Jean's beautiful home, beautifully hosted, with a large number of Foundation members attending. (And next year's party? Any volunteer hosts?)



NEW WEST SIDE RESTAURANTS

At least two new restaurants have been opened on the old west side. The first to open was **Piasta Mexicana** in the 500 block of W. Cross, not far up from the well known Old China. Authorities of Mexican food agree that this is probably the best **AUTHENTIC** Mexican restaurant in the area. The other, more recently opened, is **DaLat**, a Vietnamese restaurant at the SE corner of W. Cross and Ballard, where again you can have authentic Vietnamese food, cheerfully served. Both places are spic and span and deserve a visit. Prices are quite reasonable.

NEWS FROM ON CAMPUS

The Ypsilanti Heritage Foundation has learned through informed sources that Eastern Michigan University is actively seeking federal funds to renovate **Pease Auditorium**. Acquiring these funds is likely to be a lengthy process (funding for Welch Hall took three to four years of effort). Representatives Carl Purcell and William Ford have both toured the building and various officials from Washington, D.C., involved in funding for such projects have walked through Pease recently.

In the meantime, the university is spending some of its own money on a new roof and a temporary heating system to ensure that no further deterioration of the building occurs until renovation can begin. Fortunately, Pease Auditorium has been declared structurally sound. However, the old heating system is not working, the electrical system must be replaced, the seats are in poor condition, and the terra cotta on the inside is in need of repair.

The Ypsilanti Heritage Foundation is pleased to learn that Eastern Michigan University has made a strong commitment to save this historic building so important to the cultural life of both the campus and the town. The foundation offers its strong support to Eastern's Administration as they undertake this daunting task.

**THANKS TO ALL THOSE WHO WATER AND SWEEP, PICK UP AND PLANT,
KEEPING YPSILANTI A PLEASANT PLACE TO LIVE!**

**AND DON'T FORGET TO BUY AT LEAST ONE 1992 FOUNDATION
CALENDAR THIS YEAR, ON SALE AT FESTIVAL BOOTHS AND THROUGH
THE FOUNDATION. REMEMBER: THEY'RE EXCELLENT FOR GIFTS, SO
EASY, AND GOOD FOR RELATIVES, OLD FRIENDS, AND NEIGHBORS --
WHETHER THEY HAVE BEEN HERE, LIVED HERE, OR NOT.**

MEMBERSHIP IN THE FOUNDATION



REMEMBER: dues are due in September. If you are a dues paying member now, you should be receiving your billing soon. If you would like to join the Foundation, send your check to Lisa Walters, Treasurer, 102 N. Wallace, Ypsilanti, MI 48197. Individual-\$10; Family-\$15; Contributing-\$25; Sustaining-\$100; Life-\$1000. **HELP MAKE HISTORY!**

Heritage Foundation Board Members:

Hank Prebys, President
Penny Schreiber, Vice Pres.
Lisa Walters, Treasurer
Jane Bird
Jack Harris
Rick Leyshock
Bill Nickels
Don Randazzo
Denis Schmiedeke
Jane Van Bolt

The Ypsilanti Heritage Foundation
510 Pearl Street
Heritage News
Jack Harris, Editor
Lisa Walters, Assistant Editor

Heritage News

Heritage News is the newsletter of the YPSILANTI HERITAGE FOUNDATION. It is published five times a year: September, November, January, March and May; and distributed, free of charge, to the membership by mail, and made available to the public at City Hall, Farmers' Market, and various business locations in the three business districts in the City.

September 1991

Ypsilanti, MI

MEETING: Tuesday, September 24, 1991--7:30 p.m.

**LOCATION: The First Methodist Church
The Meeting Room (downstairs)
209 Washtenaw Avenue, Ypsilanti**

**PROGRAM: "Gas, Food, and Lodging: The Design
of the American Roadside"
(An Illustrated Lecture)**

**SPEAKER: Daniel Hershberger, Professor
of Graphic Design
Center for Creative Studies, Detroit**

THIS FIRST MEETING of the 1991-92 series of **PUBLIC MEETINGS** to be held by the Foundation is the result of our meeting Mr. Hershberger at the highly popular meeting in March 1990, when we met in Tom Conway's fabulous Auto Museum on Cross Street. Mr. Hershberger was one of the huge crowd in attendance to hear our own Tom Jones talk about the history of the auto industry. He also came, of course, to see the museum.

We would gladly impose upon Tom's fabulous hospitality again, except that we think that the crowd may even be larger--and we don't want to turn anyone away.

Professor Hershberger is more than just an enthusiast on the subject of the history of the American roadside. He is probably the foremost expert, with perhaps the largest collection of slides, in this area.

COME TO BE INFORMED, ENTERTAINED, AND MOVED BY MEMORIES OF THE "GOOD OLD DAYS" The evening is expected to heighten our awareness of design as we travel along our streets and highways and to treasure the best of those surviving examples, so rare, of roadside architecture.

Refreshments well be served. See you there!
(Membership NOT required! Everyone welcome!
Bring a friend!)

1991 HISTORIC HOME TOUR A SUCCESS
(a letter from the committee chair)

This year's Historic Home Tour, held on Sunday, August 18th, was one of the most successful tours the Heritage Foundation has held to date. More than 400 people visited the six homes and the First United Methodist Church which were on tour this year.

On behalf of the Home Tour Committee, I would like to thank the owners of the tour locations for graciously making their properties available: The Reverend David Kidd and the congregation of the First United Methodist Church; Paul Sieron, 192 Oak; Joe Mattimoe and Hank Prebys, 301 North Grove; Gary Clark, 227 N. Grove; Jonnie Bryant and Mark Namateus, 313 E. Cross; Kathie Kamp and Jonathan Langberg, 221 S. Washington; and Arthur and Terry McVicar, 917 Pearl.

Thanks also to all of the volunteer guides on this year's tour. It takes a great many people to properly present the homes on tour, and the guides' assistance is invaluable.

We would like to thank the sponsors for this year's brochure: Depot Exchange Antiques, Congdon's Ace Hardware, River Artworks, Diane Brown LaRue of Brookshire Associates, Elisabeth Knibbe and our anonymous donor.

Likewise, thanks to the various contributors to the tour, poster, postcards and brochure: the archives of the Ypsilanti Historical Museum, Norton's Florists and Gift Shops, Sara Watson, All In One Print & Graphics, Carolyn McKeever, Denis Schmiedeke and University Publications, Eastern Michigan University.

We would like to thank the following merchants whose businesses served as advance ticket sales locations for this year's tour: Norton's Florists, Vera's Design Studio, Apple Annie's and Jim MacDonald's, Depot Exchange Antiques, Hon's Flowers, John Leidy Shops, Inc., Sprentall's Frames, Partners in Wine 2, Great Ideas II and C & M Fitness Center.

Thanks to Bill and Karen Nickels, our hardworking ticket sales subcommittee and to Jack Harris, Rick Leyshock, and Karen Nickels for organizing a delightful post-tour party for the homeowners and volunteers.

Finally, I'd like to issue my personal thanks to the members of the general Home Tour Committee: Kim Koch, Diane LaRue, Nancie Loppnow, Mary Ann McDonald, Emily Jean McFadden, Penny Schreiber, Grace Sweeney, and Jane Van Bolt. These individuals are responsible for locating and selecting the homes on tour. In addition, they serve as the chief guides at each location, researching the properties, writing the brochure copy for the individual sites and organizing and training the volunteer guides. **CONGRATULATIONS AND THANKS TO YOU ALL!**

Peg Du Fresne
Chairman, 1991 Historic Home Tour Committee

P.S. The Committee will begin work on the 1992 Home Tour in mid-January, 1992. Anyone interested in joining the Committee in any capacity should contact Peg Du Fresne between now and December 1, 1991, at 482-8666.

NOTES FROM COUNCILMAN BARRY LARUE

Gary Maxton, you should note, is in the process of removing the paint from the historic brick front of his business in downtown Ypsilanti, Maxton Unlimited, 106 W. Michigan. You may still see the scaffolding. He apparently plans to do the front of Greene's Jewelers as well. Watch closely, as we see downtown Ypsilanti storefronts looking more and more in character with the huge historic district in which they stand as a centerpiece. Gary, you may remember, has already removed the paint from the east wall of the building on Pearl Street just to the east of the historic G.A.R. Hall and has cleaned up the west wall of the G.A.R., transforming that entire site.

Barry also reports that his efforts to save the remaining examples of stone sidewalks that used to grace our older streets seem to be having an impact. We should see every example saved, wherever possible, even if it means moving them elsewhere. They lend a 'feel' to the historic character of our community that can't be duplicated with new materials.

Barry, finally, is working to see that the city, or its contractors, saves old street paving bricks when streets are torn up. (Often in the past they are simply carted away to some dump.) **HE WOULD BE INTERESTED TO KNOW IF ANY FOUNDATION MEMBERS WOULD LIKE TO VOLUNTEER TO SORT, CLEAN, AND STACK SUCH BRICKS FOR FUTURE USE.** His romantic imagination (bless those of us who have it) envisions at least one small street repaved in old brick--if only to show our children what Ypsilanti 'felt' like underfoot--for generations to come. Call Barry at 482-2327.





NOTES FROM OUR OLD FRIEND AND MEMBER, JIM WESTFALL

Jim Westfall, who now lives in Florida, wrote earlier this year in response to references in the News to specific houses. Concerning the house at the SE corner of Washington and Washtenaw that is soon to be under renovation by Triangle Management, he writes:

"That house was owned for years by Mrs. Helen Conklin Swift, who lived where the Gilbert Residence stands now. Dr. and Mrs. Elmer Lyman (the first wife) lived on the south side for 26 years, and Mrs. Lyman never cooked a meal there. They ate out. She died in the house while they were sitting side-by-side on the sofa, and looking at plans for the house they were going to build at 308 Washtenaw Ave. She apparent had a heart attack, as she leaned against him suddenly, and was dead. He went on and built the house, moved into it, married Florence Lyon, who taught modern language at MSNC, and both of them died there. I think the Presbyterian Church acquired it, and the Rev. Ramon Bair lived there for some years."

Of the big house Jim lived in where the E.M.U. parking lot now stands behind the almost finished AATA bus depot, Jim mentions that that building was originally the first public school building on the west side of the river. "It was worked over several times, and looked nothing like it did in the beginning. I think I was the longest tenant, having 67 years there." (His dad lived there 65 years.)

As you may know, Jim was for a long time a postman in Ypsilanti. That's how he accumulated much of his information. But his memory of interesting details of Ypsilanti history is astonishing, as exemplified in the above. We appreciate every word he writes. He this year celebrated his 80th birthday and writes to us from 4918 N. Habana Ave., Tampa, Fl. 33614.

OPENING: CALENDAR SALES PERSON

The Foundation announces the opening of the position of calendar sales person. Penny Schreiber, who has handled our calendar sales for several years now, has become Foundation Vice President and is looking for someone to take over this former duty. Any YHF member interested in this position can call Penny at 483-5688 for more information.

LET'S WELCOME THE NEW MAIN STREET PROGRAM DIRECTOR!

The Ypsilanti Heritage Foundation wishes to extend a big welcome to Lori Ward, the new director of the Ypsilanti Main Street Program. News of her arrival hit top front page headlines (with photo) in the Ypsilanti Press, Friday, Sept. 6. Lori sounds like she's a down-to-earth, straight-forward kind of person: "I've got my work cut out for me," she's quoted as announcing, referring to the 20 empty storefronts along Michigan Avenue. She comes with great credentials: she has worked in the preservation program in Washington, D.C., and more recently was senior planner in the urban design studio of Johnson Johnson & Roy, Ann Arbor. We just want her to know that the Foundation will do whatever it can to promote her interests here. Keep in touch, Lori.



MEMBERS: DID YOU PICK UP THE AUGUST 1991 "GOOD NEWS EDITION", OUR ANNUAL HERITAGE FESTIVAL NEWS, REPORTING MANY OF THE GOOD THINGS THAT HAVE HAPPENED REGARDING NEIGHBORHOODS AND PRESERVATION IN THE PAST YEAR? We believe that most members did--at Festival or specifically on Home Tour. **IF YOU, AS A MEMBER, DID NOT RECEIVE THAT ISSUE, AND YOU WOULD LIKE A COPY,** call your editor, Jack Harris, at 485-2155, and we will gladly send you one. On the other hand, if you ARE coming to the September meeting, we will be sure to have one waiting for you there. (Postage is expensive!)



MEMBERSHIP IN THE FOUNDATION

REMEMBER: dues are due in September. If you are a dues paying member now, you should be receiving your billing soon. If you would like to join the Foundation, send your check to Lisa Walters, Treasurer, 102 N. Wallace, Ypsilanti, MI 48197. Individual-\$10; Family-\$15; Contributing-\$25; Sustaining-\$100; Life-\$1000. **HELP MAKE HISTORY!**

**The Ypsilanti Heritage Foundation
510 Pearl Street
Heritage News**

Jack Harris, Editor(485-2155)
Lisa Walters, Assistant Editor(485-3683)

Heritage News

Heritage News is the newsletter of the YPSILANTI HERITAGE FOUNDATION. It is published five times a year: September, November, January, March and May; and distributed, free of charge, to the membership by mail, and made available to the public at City Hall, Farmers' Market, and various business locations in the three business districts in the City.

November 1991

Ypsilanti, MI

MEETING: Tuesday, November 26, 1991--7:30 p.m.

LOCATION: The First Methodist Church
The Meeting Room (downstairs)
209 Washtenaw Avenue, Ypsilanti

PROGRAM: THE ART OF COLLECTING: YPSILANTI MEMORABILIA
BOTTLES, CARDS, YOU-NAME-IT

SPEAKER: TERRY TOWLER, well known Ypsilanti collector

"Terry Towler finds history in ravines, corners of fields and at the sites of abandoned privies," reports the Ann Arbor News about our distinguished speaker this month. He has collected over 5,000 bottles, which tell the story of Washtenaw County's past. Towler has all kinds of memorabilia that remind us of our past which he will bring to life in a variety of illustrations.

This will be a short program with a lot of sharing. Everyone is welcome. You, too, are encouraged to bring (at your own risk, and with great care, of course) anything you'd like to show off and share with your friends and neighbors. Count on it: enthusiasm will abound--and surprises are in store for all of us.

Refreshments will be served: hot coffee and tea, with
homemade cookies

Everyone welcome! Bring a friend!



NEWS BRIEFS:

BE SURE TO READ the Depot Town Rag for November! It contains full coverage of the **CROSSING GUARD'S TOWER** that is rising on the site of the original tower that was built there in the 1890's. Like almost everything that gets done around this old town, it is the work (and inspiration) of local, down-home talent. **READ** all about it in the **RAG**! Once more you will feel proud to live in Ypsilanti.

THE TWO BUILDINGS DIRECTLY BEHIND THE LIBRARY, one the former site of the Huron Press, the other an historic house, are being renovated for use by The Hope Medical Clinic. Work in progress.

IT IS GRATIFYING TO KNOW that the burned out (but structurally sound) landmark at the SE corner of Washtenaw and N. Washington is stabilized; an enormous amount of debris has been removed, and the building enclosed for protection against the weather. We look forward to its ultimate restoration.

MORE TO THE POINT: STOP!!! on any work day right now and watch the miracle (Ypsilanti has a seemingly unending chain of them occurring) in progress diagonally across the junction from the above. The dilapidated porch at 201 Washington (once a certified Marker Structure) is being restored to perfection, piece by piece and matched to original in every detail. Its owner, a Mr. Neff, should be very proud, as we are happy to have him with us.

AS YOU DRIVE UP EAST FOREST, you can't miss the new colonial style cottage on the left, before you reach N. River. It's as yet unpainted but, with fireplace and front porch, it will fit very nicely into Old Ypsilanti.

THE OTHER NEW HOUSE IN THE DISTRICT, at 204 Maple, is now up for sale. Lots of windows and big back yard, it too fits perfectly into its historic setting.

WHILE THERE, take a good look at the building across the street: the great Queen Anne that needed attention for so long. See it on a sunny day, when the colors vibrate, especially from the gables, perhaps chosen to complement the very special stained glass window in the top front gable. What a transformation in progress!

RALPH ELLIS AND VAL BASS'S house at 306 Oak is so transformed, though still in progress, that your editor at first couldn't find it. Go see it (quick!) before Ralph finishes!



WHILE YOU'RE OUT AND ABOUT, take a look at 409 N. Adams, Connie Crump's superb Queen Anne and the new color scheme. What a joy it would be to live within such happy, sunny colors. Ypsilanti is surely becoming the Painted Lady of the Great Lakes Region!

THEN PAUSE AT THE NEW AATA BUS STATION, it too still in progress. See it just now, on a sunny day, with workmen on the clock tower and all around the colorful structure, putting on the finishing touches. Not a bad addition to downtown, with a character of its own.

GARE MAXTON AT 106 W. MICHIGAN should be commended for finishing his three story nineteenth century commercial facade to perfection. Take a look now, and try to recall what that area of downtown looked like only a few short years ago. Business may be slow right now; but, with the proliferation of "little boxes on the hillsides and all made of ticky-tack," restoration of historic properties will pay off as time goes by and their unique character becomes more and more appreciated. (We appreciated them right now!)

SAD NOTE: another fire: this time at 224 N. River: isn't there someone out there who might put even that little Greek Revival treasure back together? (Keep everything crossed.)



FOUNDATION MAKES GIFT TO PUBLIC LIBRARY

At its last meeting the board of directors of the Heritage Foundation voted to make a small donation to the library by paying for an annual subscription to the National Trust for Historic Preservation. This will allow the library to continue a subscription it already carries and free it up to all other materials. However, since this year's Trust membership (with Preservation News and other publications) is already paid for, the library is using our gift to purchase the Seventh Edition of the Old House Catalog. Paula Drummond, Head of Adult Services, (always superb at her task, by the way) was most appreciative of our gift and we will receive recognition on the catalog and each issue as it arrives.

THE ECHO, Eastern's student newspaper, speaks out on Pease Auditorium, in an editorial(10-30-91) entitled "University must raise remainder of funds":

"Slowly, plans for the renovation of Pease Auditorium have been put in motion. At least part of the funding for the restoration has come through from the federal government. President Bush signed legislation Monday which included an estimated \$1 million for Pease renovation.

Now that the government has given the University the money, it's time for EMU to keep the ball rolling. If we can raise more than \$30 million in less than five years to build a new College of Business, then surely we can raise \$5 million to renovate this important historic structure. We can't afford not to.

Pease is EMU's only auditorium. When it was in use, it definitely had its problems--it was drafty, unsafe and filled with asbestos--but it was the only place on this campus the music department, Office of Campus Life and other departments and organizations could present concerts, shows and award ceremonies.

The problems with Pease were notorious. Nevertheless, the University did not attempt to correct the problems until it was too late for simple minor repairs. The building was ignored. Now it's condemned, and our music department is forced to perform at Washtenaw Community College's Towsley Auditorium.

A university without an auditorium is nearly unheard of. Most public universities and colleges in this state have several.

EMU must begin to raise funds immediately for this project. If the University works as hard with Pease funding as it did with College of Business funding, then the money will come through.

Pease is too important to this institution and the community to allow its degeneration any longer."
(The students have said it all. Don't you agree?)

AUDITORIUM MICHIGAN STATE NORMAL COLLEGE YPSILANTI MICH





GARDEN NOTES

JENIFER LARSEN, who works in the Youth Department of the Ypsilanti Public Library, is to be commended for the fine display of petunias in the window boxes all round the building during late summer and well into the fall. She celebrated Clean-Up Michigan day last spring by having families with children come in, clean up the grounds, plant the window boxes, do sidewalk chalk painting, etc., an activity that she hopes to make an annual event. How ever can we thank her?

SPEAKING OF CLEANING UP: We should never forget a quote from Katherine Hepburn on the subject: "If you have trouble with your weight, just exercise at least a half-hour a day. I go out every day for a walk. I pick up all the papers on the walk that I'm going to make . . . so that I don't have to walk among the filthy, dirty cups, beer cans, bottles and trash that people toss in the parks. It gives me a lot of bending exercises, and it looks lovely where I walk." How could you possibly not LOVE Kate Hepburn after a comment like that? Let's each do our thing to help keep Ypsilanti's 'garden' clean.

STORAGE OF BULBS is always a problem at this time of year. Your editor has some dahlia, gadiola, and tuberous begonia bulbs that he wanted to be sure to save (he has trouble keeping them in the basement where they dry out), so he called Mr. Good at the reputable firm of Good's Nursery, this side of Plymouth.

He suggested that they be packed in Canadian peat (from Riverside Lawn and Garden Supply) and kept in the garage with a glass of water beside them. When the water freezes, he says, bring them into the coldest place in the house, but he believed they should be good out there until around Christmas. He also said that one should never throw away a tuber just because it looks shriveled up: plant it, in any case, even starting it in a pot early in the house.





ONE ROOM SCHOOL HOUSE UPDATE: You may remember that the Heritage Foundation gave a sizable contribution (though only a minuscule portion of the total cost) toward the establishment and restoration of The One Room School House, a gift of the Geddes family, on Eastern Michigan University's campus. The old school building was set on a new (basement) foundation (with original stone foundation showing) more than a year ago, but delays in the building of the Gary Owens School of Business left the little school house in limbo. Now work is progressing on the interior. The attic has been cleaned out (heaps of wild animal dung, etc.); the tin ceiling repaired, with new material where necessary, cleaned and painted; the plaster repaired, cleaned, and painted, the wainscoting and woodwork cleaned and oiled; floor scrubbed; one of the two entry doors from vestibule into the schoolroom proper widened slightly to accommodate handicap access; new appropriate doors hung on front and new back openings; access to basement newly drywalled and bath the same. There's more to do, especially the completion of the bathroom facility (an essential if meetings are to be held in the building); but it's looking good.

The school was open to the public recently at Homecoming, Saturday, October 12th. A steady flow of visitors were welcomed by Jack Harris (later spelled off by Lois Porter, Fran Nelson, and Betty Drummond) and treated to hot cider and doughnuts as well as coffee and cookies by two student education groups, Kappa Delta Pi and the Association for Prospective Teachers.

It's a charming space, with three windows either side, original blackboards behind the teacher's desk and at one side, and as much of the original fabric intact to give visitors the authentic 'feel' of the place--even to the original piano waiting for a tuner. The original (at least last) globe electric light fixtures are cleaned and working; new sprinkler system installed, etc., etc. Most recently, Aaron Prescott of the E.M.U. Plant has been in charge and he has taken his responsibilities seriously, following as closely as possible directives from the architect's (Quinn-Evans) plans and the restoration committee.

At the most recent school house committee meeting, attended by Chair Dean Rockwell, Lois Porter, Linda Chapman, Jerry Robbins (new Dean of the School of Education), Fran Nelson, Jack Harris, and John Calder, discussion centered around two subjects: 1) restoration, and 2) collection of artifacts. Offers are coming (trickling?) in from people who want to donate artifacts for furnishing of the school. Just about everything is needed:--first and foremost, desks. Anyone knowing the whereabouts of the old type of school desk, with cast iron legs and sides, with wooden top, please, please let the committee know. But they are also looking for even the smallest of objects that would be



appropriate as furnishing for a school room, at any time from 1957 backward in time, with no cut-off date. The person donating must put a value on the object given. An object donated cannot be returned but would be tax deductible.

Persons interested in donating objects should call Dean Jerry Robbins of the E.M.U. School of Education, 487-1414, for instructions on how to deliver. His office will take possession and the Development Office will do the rest. Moreover, while the committee is at its final hour, ready to hand the reins over to the new Friends of the One Room School House organization, it should be noted that any financial support for E.M.U. (and 1991 donation drive for Planned Giving is now in progress) can be SPECIFICALLY DESIGNATED for the One Room School. The Committee urges your continuing support, to see this project become a living part of our community. Can't you just see schoolbus loads of kids pulling up to the front of the school on a winter day, in that lovely, central campus setting, and their descending upon the one room structure for a morning lesson of what it was like to go to school in earlier America?--a scene that would also be an inspiration to all the present students at E.M.U. as they pass from class to class, especially those majoring in education.

Those wishing to drive by the building right now should go onto the campus at Oakwood, west of the Water Tower, turn east into the campus between the heating plant and the big parking structure, and continue east to the far end of Bowen Field house: the school house will be on your right.



DUES PAYING MEMBER SAYS THANK YOU: Mary Ann McDonald of 315 Grove St. wrote a note on her dues statement that we think worth sharing with other members: "Lisa, Thank you to you and Jack Harris for the newsletter. We so enjoy reading it, and appreciate the reinforcement it gives those of us struggling to bring an old house back to former glory. I also like that Jack notices the garden and other details: it's really like having a chat with a friend and neighbor." Little does Mary Ann realize how flattering that is to the editor, who (as many know) is obsessed with Vita Sackville-West, the English poet-novelist-gardener who wrote weekly garden articles for the London Sunday newspaper, The Observer, for many years, a task she hated but the one for which she will probably be longest remembered and loved. As one biographer puts it: "But, perhaps more than all these reasons for her appeal, it was just the feeling that one was having a Sunday morning conversation with an old and amusing friend." (Don't let it go to your head, Harris; but Mary Ann's words were much appreciated and just what we like to hear.)

Quote of the Month: "If you destroy your past, something in people dies," says Jacqueline Onassis

FOR SALE:

114 North River
SOS Crisis Center
(octogan house)

For more information, call Heide Otto Basinger at 484-0060.

FOR RENT: 2 BR UPPER FLAT IN BEAUTIFUL QUEEN ANNE. BAY WINDOW, GARAGE, YARD, NEAR DEPOT TOWN ON NORTH ADAMS. CALL CONNIE CRUMP 663-3565 OR (ANS. MACHINE) 665-2985. (See reference to the charms of this property elsewhere in this issue.)

THIS YEAR'S FESTIVAL OF LIGHTS can use our help at the gate in volunteer time and cash.

The Ypsilanti Heritage Foundation

510 Pearl Street

Heritage News

Jack Harris, Editor(485-2155)

Lisa Walters, Assistant Editor(485-3683)